

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

---

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN RESPONSE

*To Senate resolution of February 23, 1893, relative to the erection of observation stands for Inauguration Day.*

---

FEBRUARY 27, 1893.—Laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

---

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, February 25, 1893.*

SIR: In response to the resolution of the Senate adopted on the 23d instant, directing the Secretary of War, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and the engineer officer in charge of public buildings and grounds in the District of Columbia "to send forthwith to the Senate a statement of all places on the public grounds and streets where permits have been given to erect stands for seats to be used on Inauguration Day, and whether, in any case, such stands have been erected in front of any of the public buildings, informing the Senate of any difference in location of said stands under resolution approved 26th of January, 1893, from the places designated under resolution authorizing the erection of stands at former inaugurations, and what, if any, conditions have been imposed as to the charges to be made to the public for the use of such stands," I have the honor to invite your attention to the inclosed report, dated the 24th instant, of Col. O. H. Ernst, U. S. Army, the engineer officer in charge of public buildings and grounds in this city, and to the inclosures therein referred to.

With reference to the statement in Col. Ernst's report that "no stands have been erected in front of any of the public buildings under the authority of the Secretary of War, except the stands in front of the Executive Mansion, and even in that case permission has not yet been formally given, the executive committee having in their press of business omitted to apply for it," it may be stated that the executive committee, by letter of February 24th instant, requested the approval of the Secretary of War to the erection of the stands in front of the Executive Mansion, and their request has to-day been approved.

Very respectfully,

S. B. ELKINS,  
*Secretary of War.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,  
*Washington, D. C., February 24, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith Senate resolution dated the 23d instant, calling for information as to the stands for seats to be used upon Inauguration Day, referred to me for report by your indorsement of the 23d instant.

There are inclosed herewith—

(1) Copy of joint resolution of Congress approved January 26, 1893, authorizing the Secretary of War to grant permits to the executive committee on inaugural ceremonies for the use of any reservation or public space in the city of Washington which in his opinion will inflict no serious or permanent injury upon it.

(2) Copy of the letter dated January 23, 1893, from the executive committee to the Secretary of War, applying for the use of certain reservations enumerated therein, with indorsements.

(3) Copy of the letter dated February 1, 1893, from the Secretary of War to the executive committee, granting the permission asked for in preceding, with conditions (marked C).

It will be observed that none of these documents refer specifically to stands for seats. The executive committee is authorized to make such use of the reservations as will, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, inflict no serious or permanent injury upon them. No conditions have been imposed as to the charges to be made to the public for the use of such stands. No stands have been erected in front of any of the public buildings under the authority of the Secretary of War, except the stands in front of the Executive Mansion. Even in that case permission has not yet been formally given, the executive committee having in their press of business omitted to apply for it. Knowing well that it would be granted when asked for, I have not thought it my duty to stop the work upon those stands, but have contented myself with calling the attention of members of the committee to the informality, which I did several days ago and again yesterday. It is not known to this office by what authority the stands in front of the Treasury Department and adjoining the Department of Justice are being erected.

In accordance with the custom of former years, I have given permission to the employes of public buildings and grounds to erect a stand at one corner of the Executive Mansion grounds, at their own expense and for their own use, for which no tickets can be sold to the public.

With the exception of the new post-office site and the small space east of Seventh street, all of these spaces have been occupied by stands at former inaugurations.

There is no record in this office of the dimensions of the stands used in former years, but the recollection of old employes is to the effect that some are larger this year, while some are smaller. According to that recollection, the stand in Lafayette square is about 100 feet longer and considerably wider, and that at Fourteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue is one-third larger than they were at the last inauguration, while those at Thirteenth street, Ninth street, and Seventh street are all smaller this year than they were then.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. ERNST,

*Col., U. S. Army, Maj., Corps of Engineers.*

Brig. Gen. THOMAS L. CASEY,

*Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,*

*Washington, D. C.*

## [PUBLIC RESOLUTION—No. 8.]

JOINT RESOLUTION to authorize the Secretary of War to grant permits for the use of reservations and public spaces in the city of Washington, and for other purposes.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to grant permits to the executive committee on inaugural ceremonies for the use of any reservations, or other public spaces, in the city of Washington, on occasion of the inauguration of the President-elect on the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, which in his opinion will inflict no serious or permanent injury upon such reservations or public spaces; and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia may designate for such and other purposes such streets, avenues, and sidewalks in the District as they may deem proper and necessary therefor.*

Approved, January 26, 1893.

[Inaugural ceremonies, March 4, 1893. General committee—James G. Berret, chairman; Alex. Porter Morse, secretary; Charles C. Glover, treasurer. Executive committee—James L. Norris, chairman; J. Fred. Kelley, secretary; William Cranch McIntire, corresponding secretary.]

HEADQUARTERS LENMAN BUILDING, No. 1425 NEW YORK AVENUE,  
Washington, D. C., January 23, 1893.

MY DEAR SIR: The executive committee most respectfully ask your official approval and permit to use the following reservations in accordance with the joint resolution of Congress, January 18, 1893.

The public spaces, parks, and reservations, as follows:

- No. 1. Lafayette Square.
- No. 2. Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street, south side.
- No. 3. Pennsylvania avenue and Thirteenth street, north side.
- No. 4. Pennsylvania avenue and Eleventh and Twelfth streets, south side (post-office site).
- No. 5. Pennsylvania avenue, west of Ninth street, south side.
- No. 6. Pennsylvania avenue, Ninth to Seventh streets, south side.
- No. 7. Pennsylvania avenue, west of Seventh street, north side.
- No. 8. Pennsylvania avenue, east of Seventh street, east side.
- No. 9. Botanical Garden.
- No. 10. Peace Monument.

Yours, most respectfully,

J. HARRISON JOHNSON,  
Chairman, P. R. and P.

Hon. STEPHEN B. ELKINS,  
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

[First indorsement.]

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY,  
January 27, 1893.

Respectfully referred to Col. O. H. Ernst, U. S. Army, in charge of public buildings and grounds, for remark.

By command of Brig. Gen. Casey:

JOHN G. D. KNIGHT,  
Captain, Corps of Engineers.

[Second indorsement.]

OFFICE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,  
Washington, D. C., January 27, 1893.

Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army. The joint resolution referred to, but dated January 26, reads as follows, viz:

*“Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to grant permits to the executive committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the use of any reservations or other public spaces in the city of Washington, on occasion of the inauguration of the President-elect on the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, which in his opinion will inflict no serious or permanent injury upon such reservations or public spaces; and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia may designate for such and other purposes such streets, avenues, and sidewalks in the District as they may deem proper and necessary therefor.”*

The special authority here given seems to cover public grounds, such as the Botanical Garden, Market Space, and post-office site, which are not otherwise under the control of the Secretary of War. It is recommended that the use of the spaces mentioned within be granted, with the condition that no serious or permanent injury be inflicted upon them.

O. H. ERNST,  
Colonel, U. S. Army; Major, Corps of Engineers.

[Third indorsement.]

OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY,  
January 27, 1893.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War, inviting attention to the preceding indorsement of Col. O. H. Ernst, major, Corps of Engineers, in immediate charge of public buildings and grounds.

I concur in the recommendation therein expressed.

THOS. LINCOLN CASEY,  
Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers.

A true copy:

O. H. ERNST,  
Colonel, U. S. Army.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, February 1, 1893.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d ultimo, asking that I will grant permission to the executive committee on inaugural ceremonies to use the following reservations or public spaces on the occasion of the inauguration of the President-elect, on March 4, 1893, under the authority conferred on the Secretary of War by joint resolution of Congress approved January 26, 1893, viz:

- "No. 1. Lafayette Square.
- "No. 2. Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street, south side.
- "No. 3. Pennsylvania avenue and Thirteenth street, north side.
- "No. 4. Pennsylvania avenue and Eleventh and Twelfth streets, south side (post-office site).
- "No. 5. Pennsylvania avenue west of Ninth street, south side.
- "No. 6. Pennsylvania avenue, Ninth to Seventh streets, south side.
- "No. 7. Pennsylvania avenue west of Seventh street, north side.
- "No. 8. Pennsylvania avenue east of Seventh street, north side.
- "No. 9. Botanical Garden.
- "No. 10. Peace Monument."

In reply you are respectfully advised that authority is granted to use the above-mentioned reservations or public spaces upon the condition that no serious or permanent injury be inflicted upon them.

With reference to space No. 4 (Pennsylvania avenue and Eleventh and Twelfth streets, south side), space No. 6 (Pennsylvania avenue, Ninth, to Seventh street, south side), and space No. 9 (Botanical Garden), which are not under the control of the Secretary of War, except as authorized by the joint resolution above mentioned, it is suggested that, in addition to the authority herein given, your committee should also obtain the consent of the proper officers who have charge and control of those spaces.

Very respectfully,

S. B. ELKINS,  
Secretary of War.  
J. HARRISON JOHNSON, Esq.,  
Chairman P. R. and P., Executive Committee Inaugural Ceremonies,  
Washington, D. C.

A true copy:

O. H. ERNST,  
Colonel, U. S. Army.